

**REMARKS**

This is in full and timely response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 13, 2003. Reexamination in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 8-9 and 11-14 are currently pending in this application, with claim 2 being independent. No new matter has been added.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance prosecution of the above-identified application, claim 9 has been amended. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103:**

Claims 2, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,053,383 to Dötzer et al. (Dötzer).

Claims 2, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,759,831 to Birkle et al. (Birkle).

Claims 2, 4, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,176,034 to Stoger et al. (Stoger).

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being allegedly obvious over Stoger.

These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Stoger, Dötzer and Birkle, either individually or as a whole, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a plating chamber containing both a plating bath and a holder for holding a substrate used in a large scale integration process

In addition, Stoger, Dötzer and Birkle, either individually or as a whole, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a transportation chamber connected to the pre-treating chamber by a first gate valve and connected to the plating chamber by a second gate valve.

Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks is courteously solicited.

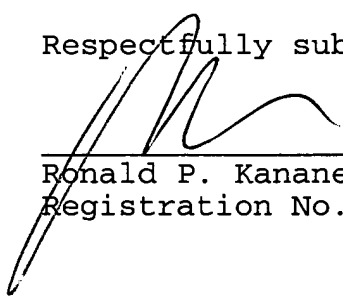
If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753 or the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Respectfully submitted,

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